



Welcome Back!

Friends of TVCOG,

Welcome to July at TVCOG and a happy Independence Day to all! As NYS reaches vaccination benchmarks, and state restrictions ease, we find ourselves able to lift some of our safety measures. **We are excited to inform you that as of today, July 1, 2021, face masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals while in our facility.** We look forward to seeing your smiling faces again!

We are also excited to announce that we are increasing our in-person programming options and public events. This month marks the return of drop-in tours for Troy Night Out, and the beginning of class and program preparation for our fall trimester. We look forward to returning to a robust program schedule for both members and non-members alike.

-- Cheryl Kennedy, Executive Director

News from the Makerspace

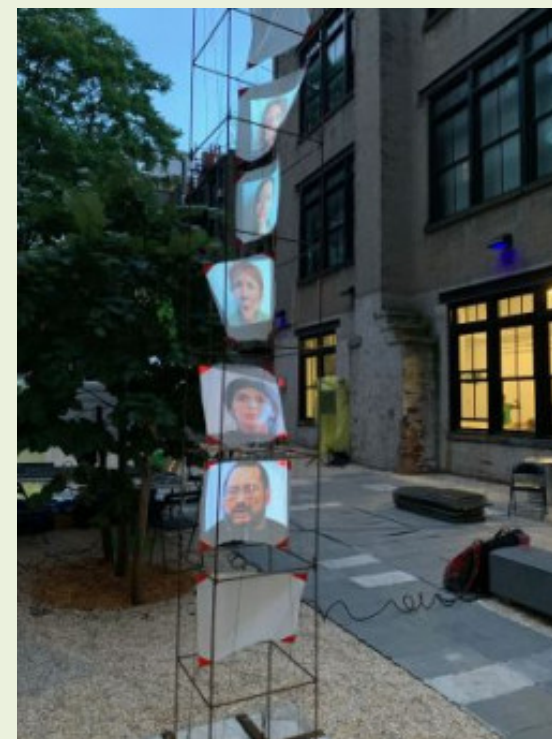
In the Spotlight...

Tower: An Art Installation by Sari Nordman

We first featured a brief sneak peek at this art installation in our April newsletter, with a behind the scenes look at Sari making frame prototypes in our welding zone. The finished installation, entitled *Tower*, is now on display from July 1 to Aug 7 at King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY.

Tower is a multi-media, interdisciplinary piece which utilizes sculpture, media projection and community participation to reflect on climate change. The piece was inspired by the biblical story of The Tower of Babel, a tale of greed and the value of cultural differences. Sari will be discussing the project during a live talk at Hunter's Point Environmental Center on July 10th at 2pm. You can watch it virtually [here](#).

[Learn More](#)



Events & Programs



The last Friday of every month, downtown Troy businesses take part in Troy Night Out, an extended evening highlighting local shops, restaurants, arts and culture. **TVCOG is excited to announce that we are once again open for drop-in tours during Troy Night Out! Tours will be available from 6-9pm on July 30.** We will also be sharing an update on our Maker-in-Residence program that evening, and encourage everyone to stop by! [Click here to see events happening at other businesses during July's Troy Night Out.](#)

We are looking to expand our education team! We will be hosting two instructor interest nights scheduled for potential new instructors on July 14th at 3pm and August 18th at 6pm. These will take place in person at our facility and will include a brief overview of our organization and our instructor recruitment process, as well as time for Q&A. We anticipate that they will take about an hour long. **We are particularly interested in teachers in STEM fields who have an interest in K-12 programming.** [Please click here to learn more or pre-register.](#)

Upcoming Classes

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is currently offering a variety of small size, socially distanced in-person classes. [Learn about our COVID-19 safety policies here.](#) For listings on our programs for families and youth, please scroll down to the THINQubator section.

Classes with open spots include:



Prototyping 101 and 102: Intro to Fusion 360

Offered on: August 7, 11am-2:30pm

This combined course will introduce you to the basics of 3D modeling and design using Fusion 360, a popular CAD platform.

The class will be taught by Michael Lobsinger, Center Director of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG), where he is responsible for the day to day operations of CEG's Business Growth Solutions and Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs. Michael has led R&D and NPD teams at Boeing, Shell Global, and Quatic Apparel, and holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from North Dakota State University and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. *Class fee: \$100 COG Members | \$279 Non-Members.* [Register here.](#)

Woodshop 201: Intro to the Lathe

Offered on: July 30, 10am-12pm

Learn the basics of pen turning, familiarize yourself with the lathe, and go home with a gorgeous custom made pen. [Learn more or register here.](#)

Glass Arts 102: Enameled Jewelry

Offered on: July 17, 6-8pm

Create beautiful jewelry using the process of enameling, which fuses glass to metal. [Learn more or register here.](#)

See All Classes Open For Registration

Resourcefulness and Ingenuity



The ways in which the maker community makes use of our space never ceases to amaze us. We sat down with member James Drake to discuss how access to the CoG helped him complete an unprecedented virtual internship for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

[Watch the Video Here](#)

Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs

FOOD FOR THOUGHT #11
LESSONS IN DESIGN, MANUFACTURING AND REGULATORY APPROVAL
BUSINESS & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT VIRTUAL LUNCHEON SERIES

WITH DWIGHT CHEU, CEO OF ZEPHYRx

Food for Thought #11: Lessons in Design, Manufacturing and Regulatory Approval
Wednesday, July 7 from 12-1pm

Join us for a conversation with Dwight Cheu on product design, product interaction, manufacturing challenges, FDA regulatory clearance, false starts and pitfalls in creating electro-mechanical devices.

What does it take to bring a combined hardware/software product to market? Dwight Cheu, CEO of ZEPHYRx, will review their journey in creating and launching breath-powered products with special attention to mistakes made and key learnings that helped them to bring the right product to market.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

HATCHED™
THE CAPITAL DISTRICT INVENTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS MEETUP



SPEAKER NIGHT
PROTECTING RAINBOW LOOM WITH THEODORE W. OLDS

HATCHED: Today, July 1 at 7pm

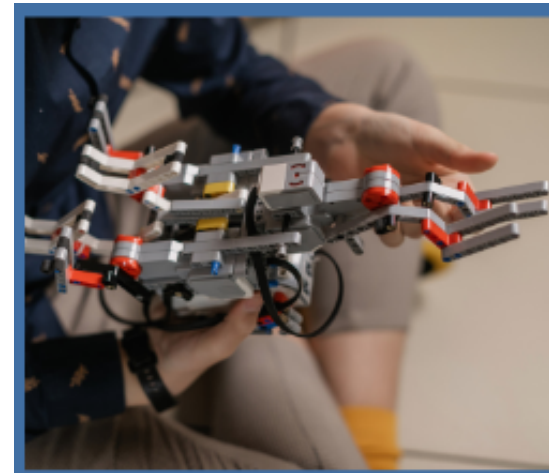
This monthly program is co-hosted by the Tech Valley Center of Gravity in partnership with the Capital District Inventors and Entrepreneurs Meetup. Through our Hatched-CDIEM partnership, we host invention and product development feedback nights and quarterly special inventor speaker presentations to foster the inventor and product development entrepreneurship community in the Capital Region of New York State. **This month's featured speakers, Theodore W. Olds and John Siragusa, will be speaking about protecting a fad product, based on their experiences with the Rainbow Loom.**

[Learn More](#)

Beginning to Pick Up STEAM

Preparation for the fall has already begun to pick up steam (so to speak!) here in the THINQubator. We are beginning to recruit mentors and guest instructors for our high school STEM Careers Mentorship program, and have begun expanding our in-person drop-in program offerings for younger children as well. We are also in the midst of redesigning the THINQubator's physical space in order to maximize space usage and ensure room for social distancing. Even as we prepare for fall, we still have lots of summer fun planned! **We will be taking a break from STEAM-Powered Saturday for July in observance of Independence Day, and returning in August for our first 100% in-person STEAM-Powered Saturday since early 2020!** We look forward to seeing you there.

Upcoming Classes & Events



BEGINNER LEVEL:
July 12-16 or
August 2-6

**Intermediate
Level:**
July 19-23 or
August 9-13

Advanced Level:
July 26-30 or
August 16-20



Combining STEAM Education with Summer Fun

Our new, in-person robotics program for children ages 11-14 starts this month! Students will build and program their robots to complete various engineering challenges that mimic real-world problems. **Each student will have access to their own dedicated laptop and LEGO Mindstorms robotics kit for the duration of the program.**

The program is offered at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Each session takes place from 1-4pm, M-F for one week. Students can enter at the level they feel best suits them, and are welcome to sign up for multiple levels consecutively.

Program pricing is available at a voluntary tiered fee structure; individual sessions start at \$220. Pricing for all three levels combined starts at \$600. All materials included.

[Learn More or Register](#)

Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



COG members Adam and Anne used some of our equipment to create custom signage for their business, The Hill at Muza. Stop by the bar or check out their [Instagram account](#) to see the finished projects!



We took a little time this month to celebrate our own Volunteer Appreciation day, offering up gift bags (with COG mugs!) for all of our amazing volunteers. Thanks again to everyone for their support, especially through this past year!



COG member and competitive axe thrower Richard spent some time in our machine shop rescuing a flea market find. He ground down and sharpened the blade and fixed up a new handle to make this axe competition ready!

Remember to tag your project on Instagram with #madeatthecog!

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is a makerspace, prototyping center, manufacturing incubator, STEAM-education center and creative community located in the heart of downtown Troy, New York. A member-supported 501(c)(3) community resource organization, the Center of Gravity serves members from Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties and beyond with space, tools, technology and expertise to explore and exercise their creativity, turn ideas into objects of art and utility, and launch new ventures based on their own ingenuity.

Featured Sponsor



The Hill at Muza provides casual Polish & American fare served in a ski lodge-like pub with a year-round beer garden and extensive beer and wine list. They offer fanciful indoor and outdoor seating with a great sunset and weekend brunch.

[Click Here to Learn About Sponsorship](#)

Join Our Creative Community

We are open and operating at standard hours. Membership hours and access types depend on the membership level you choose. Membership is open to anyone ages 18+ so [join today!](#)

TVCOG's COVID-19 Protocols

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is committed to following guidelines set forth by New York State and to ensuring the safety of our community members. Review our Covid-19 policies and procedures [here](#).

Tech Valley Center of Gravity
30 3rd Street
Troy, NY 12180
[Donate Here](#)

